



SHEFFIELD

Berkshire County



[NARRATIVE](#)
[GEOGRAPHY](#)
[GOVERNMENT](#)
[DEMOGRAPHICS](#)
[HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS](#)
[TRANSPORTATION](#)
[CULTURE AND RECREATION](#)
[MISCELLANEOUS](#)



NARRATIVE

Narrative

The Town of Sheffield is located in the Housatonic River Valley at the southern end of Berkshire County. With two distinct villages, Sheffield and Ashley Falls, the town's development pattern has been greatly influenced by its physical features: the Housatonic River and its wide floodplain; the Schenob Brook wetland complex (identified as one of the most unique unspoiled ecosystems in the world); and the steep slopes of the Berkshire Hills on the east and the Taconic Range on the west. The oldest town in Berkshire County, the community has maintained its rich historical character. Noted for its deep agricultural soils, much of Sheffield remains open and in agricultural production. The combination of wide open river valley, mountain vistas and active farmland, residents feel, makes Sheffield one of the most beautiful towns in the Commonwealth, with the fall being an especially attractive time of year.

Sheffield is the largest member of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District, which has recently completed construction in Sheffield of a new \$25 million state-of-the-art school complex housing elementary, middle, and high school grades. Mt. Everett Regional School, the high school component, is nationally recognized for its innovative schedule and programs. Located on U.S. Route 7, Sheffield is approximately one hour from Hartford, Springfield and Albany, and two and one-half hours from Boston and New York City. As a consequence of Sheffield's location in the Southern Berkshires, there is easy access to a variety of cultural and recreational opportunities, including ski areas, state parks and forests, and summer theater and music events.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Southwestern Massachusetts, bordered by Great Barrington on the north; New Marlborough on the east; Salisbury and North Canaan, Connecticut, on the south; and Egremont and Mt. Washington on the west. Sheffield is 33 miles south of Pittsfield, 40 miles west of Springfield, 130 miles southwest of Boston, and 120 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 48.54 sq. miles

Land Area: 48.15 sq. miles

Population: 2,910

Density: 60 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Great Barrington Station)

Normal temperature in January.....20.1°F

Normal temperature in July.....68.1°F

Normal annual precipitation.....44.8"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Ashley Falls, Bashbish Falls, Great Barrington, Egremont

Regional Planning Agency

Berkshire County

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (413) 229-2335

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Town Administrator

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1733

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	1,769		
Democrats	339	19.2	%
Republicans	521	29.5	%
Other parties	3	0.2	%
Unenrolled Voters	906	51.2	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Sheffield town, Berkshire County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	3,335	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	3,335	100.0
Male.....	1,623	48.7	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	44	1.3
Female.....	1,712	51.3	Mexican.....	12	0.4
Under 5 years.....	178	5.3	Puerto Rican.....	9	0.3
5 to 9 years.....	237	7.1	Cuban.....	3	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	238	7.1	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	20	0.6
15 to 19 years.....	201	6.0	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	3,291	98.7
20 to 24 years.....	125	3.7	White alone.....	3,220	96.6
25 to 34 years.....	324	9.7	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	595	17.8	Total population.....	3,335	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	516	15.5	In households.....	3,321	99.6
55 to 59 years.....	221	6.6	Householder.....	1,369	41.0
60 to 64 years.....	173	5.2	Spouse.....	750	22.5
65 to 74 years.....	299	9.0	Child.....	918	27.5
75 to 84 years.....	182	5.5	Own child under 18 years.....	732	21.9
85 years and over.....	46	1.4	Other relatives.....	101	3.0
Median age (years).....	41.0	(X)	Under 18 years.....	36	1.1
18 years and over.....	2,541	76.2	Nonrelatives.....	183	5.5
Male.....	1,224	36.7	Unmarried partner.....	92	2.8
Female.....	1,317	39.5	In group quarters.....	14	0.4
21 years and over.....	2,458	73.7	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	630	18.9	Noninstitutionalized population.....	14	0.4
65 years and over.....	527	15.8	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	234	7.0	Total households.....	1,369	100.0
Female.....	293	8.8	Family households (families).....	912	66.6
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	392	28.6
One race.....	3,318	99.5	Married-couple family.....	750	54.8
White.....	3,247	97.4	With own children under 18 years.....	300	21.9
Black or African American.....	35	1.0	Female householder, no husband present.....	113	8.3
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	10	0.3	With own children under 18 years.....	64	4.7
Asian.....	8	0.2	Nonfamily households.....	457	33.4
Asian Indian.....	-	-	Householder living alone.....	364	26.6
Chinese.....	4	0.1	Householder 65 years and over.....	152	11.1
Filipino.....	1	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	414	30.2
Japanese.....	-	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	388	28.3
Korean.....	2	0.1	Average household size.....	2.43	(X)
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average family size.....	2.94	(X)
Other Asian ¹	1	-	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	1,634	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	1,369	83.8
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	265	16.2
Samoan.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	212	13.0
Some other race.....	18	0.5	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	1.0	(X)
Two or more races.....	17	0.5	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	5.3	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: ³			Occupied housing units.....	1,369	100.0
White.....	3,262	97.8	Owner-occupied housing units.....	1,083	79.1
Black or African American.....	46	1.4	Renter-occupied housing units.....	286	20.9
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	16	0.5	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.51	(X)
Asian.....	9	0.3	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.10	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-			
Some other race.....	21	0.6			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 0

Conventional Federal: 0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 0

Federal (Section 8): 0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Sheffield is situated in Berkshire County, a region of hills and low mountains that widen to create the Berkshire Valley in the south. The major cities and towns are linked together by U.S. Route 7. North Adams and Pittsfield are major points of entry for rail freight into Massachusetts, and the region has several commercial airports.

Major Highways

The principal highway is U.S. Route 7, which runs N-S through the Berkshires.

Rail

Freight service is available from the Housatonic Railroad, which has a public delivery track in Sheffield. Contact number: (203) 824-0850

Bus

Sheffield is not affiliated with any regional transit authority. Bonanza Bus Lines provides regular service to New York City and Bennington, Vermont.

Other

The Great Barrington Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility, is easily accessible. It has a 2,579'x 50' asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

Col. Ashley House
Cooper Hill Road
Ashley Falls
(413) 229-8600

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

None

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.